

DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP
APRIL 7, 2021
MEETING MINUTES

Present: Terry Anderson, Amy Laper, Tom Jeppesen, Pat Althoff, Ronda L Snyder

Guests: Dave Kelsey, Pat Carr, Albert Jongewaard, Brian O'Shaw, & many Township residents.

7:00 p.m.: The meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Tom made a motion to approve the Agenda, Amy seconded. Motion passed
2. Tom made a motion to approve the March 2021 meeting minutes, Amy seconded. Motion passed
3. Tom made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Ronda seconded. Motion passed
4. Tom made a motion to approve paying the bills, Amy seconded. Motion passed

New Business:

1. Ordinance No 165, An Ordinance to Amend The Zoning Ordinance of The Township of Douglass by Repealing The Provisions of Amending Ordinance No 150, As Adopted November 4, 2020, and to Enact A Temporary Moratorium on Wind Energy System Applications. Amy made a motion to adopt Ordinance No 165, Tom seconded. Motion Passed
2. Vote on Zoom meetings. Ronda made a motion to stop paying for Zoom meetings, Tom seconded. Motion passed
3. Fire contract with Belvidere Township. Tom made a motion to approve the contract, Amy seconded. Motion passed

Open Discussion:

1. Terry: The Spring Clean Up is April 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m... No shovel off loads. We need volunteers. Ben Reynolds, Andrew Petersen & boys, Scott Lipert all volunteered.
2. Amy: The website is up and running and will replace our Facebook page and Facebook group. The website address: www.douglasstwp.org
3. Letter from Larry & Laura Engel, read by Laura Engel. They have a signed contract with Apex. They have 16 solar panels which help with their electricity usage. They feel it was their responsibility to do what they can to help alleviate the fossil fuel usage. They also feel like it's their property and they should be able to do with it what they want. They did not sign a "gag" order.

4. Terry: We had a new Ordinance drawn up by Tim Johnson and the Planning Commission wants to use the new one and the one Cindy Shick did and to come up with one that is fair to all of the Township while also protect the Township.

Public Comments:

1. Eric Henchel: handed out a Report for Montcalm County, Michigan. Estimated net annual community financial impact for the proposed “Montcalm Wind” project. “No one knows where or what amount will come in to the county”
2. Carol: Lives on the lake and does not want to see wind turbines. Wants data on animal disruption around wind turbines. “I don’t see the word “Lake” in the Ordinance
3. Sara Kelly: McBride Rd. Says wind turbines are unreliable, costly, and create kill zones. Wants us to wait a couple of years and solar makes more sense.
4. Keith: “What about shorter towers”? Wonders what the whole truth is.
5. Robert Scott: “Are you willing to Zoom if people are willing to pay for it”? Terry: Will take in to consideration.
6. Vicki: Gave out flyers for Informational meeting on April 8th. “I have a realtor friend who said she sold a house that was \$174,000 but after the Wind Turbines moved in she could only sell it for \$86,000. That’s a loss of revenue to the Township.”
7. Julia: Windfield twp.
8. Melissa: Beel City. Pro Wind but needs more restrictions
9. Ron Finegood. “Get an Ordinance that does not encourage wind energy companies to come here”. On April 24. Spectrum in Lakeview will be collecting old medications and Sharps needles.
10. Brandi: Wants Zoom to continue and wants to push for a Q&A
11. Dave Kelsey: Two stories, one on the right & one on the left. Thinks the truth lies somewhere in the middle.
12. Andrew Petersen: He is with the Douglass Township Energy Coalition and is willing to be a go between
13. Linda Reynolds. Feels no respect between some individuals
14. Paul Celebuski: “Please continue with the Zoom meetins”. Wants to move forward from this but hopes we don’t allow them around the lakes.
15. Jamie Snyder: Cato Township. Did her own inspection of wind turbines and it was “eye opening”.
16. Pat Carr: County Commissioner: Wants a turbine on his property. His property has been in his family for many many years and the Township has received property taxes on it for as many. Wonders why he shouldn’t be able to do with his property what he wants.
17. Robert Scott: Gratiot County. Have a house on Nevins Lake, they spend money in our county and does not want turbines to invade our lives. If we don’t have a good Ordinance we could be looking at a lawsuit.

18. Brian O'Shaw from Apex. There are Q&A's on the website. He was at Cato meeting. He responded to house values and said if anything the values go up. "Tourism increases 1 to 2% per year, not a 50% loss.
19. Albert Jongewaard: Apex. They have a public outreach program. Upjohn Foudation. For tax benefit. Turbine owners have to pay taxes. Tax value increases. 3.8 million dollar turbine is what they pay taxes on.
20. Kim Hansen: Sidney Township. She is against turbines. Their Township is debt free and doesn't need the money. Wants peace and quiet.

8:33 p.m.: With no other discussion Tom made a motion to adjourn, Amy seconded. Motion passed.